

The Carillon

MAY/JUNE 2021

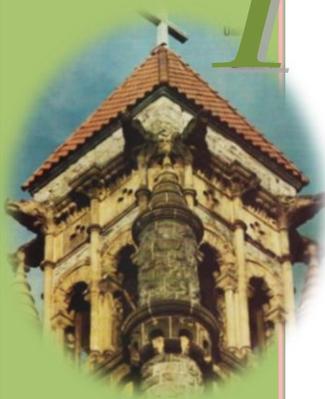


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From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings Epworth friends! As the weather begins to warm and the flowers and new growth of spring brighten our world with color, we are seeing evidence of resurrection and life all around us. As the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 2: 17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come!" I believe we are seeing this at Epworth as we emerge from the difficult season of COVID 19 restrictions and closings. Individuals are receiving vaccines that were developed, tested and approved in nothing short of miraculous time schedules. This has allowed us to emerge from our homes, come together in worship and meetings, sometimes even offer a hug or a handshake. We have made the necessary adjustments to safely keep our Day School open and to offer weekly in-person worship services, even as we continue to experience growth in our Morning Break and Evening Zoom virtual membership. We have welcomed new visitors to worship and reached out a helping hand to our neighbors through generous donations to our Blessing Box. We have even begun looking towards the future by restructuring our leadership model, updating our worship format and music and making plans to expand our Day School space to keep up with growing enrollment. In many ways, and with God's help, I believe that Epworth is emerging from the difficulty of the past year with new life, new excitement and renewed hope for growth and impact in the Norfolk community.

During this season of Easter, as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, I would like to encourage all of us to experience a renewal of faith and deepening of relationship with Jesus Christ. Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring what it means to "Come Alive" and live out the resurrection of Jesus and to be a "new creation in Christ." As our community and the world emerges from COVID 19 restrictions, may we as a church community also emerge into new life and new ministry. When we reconnect with friends and family, let's work to make new connections with our neighbors; perhaps finding some new common ground with someone younger, of a different race and demographic or even political ideology as ourselves. Most importantly, let's reach out to those who don't know Jesus and don't have a church home and invite them to become part of a new community of faith at Epworth.

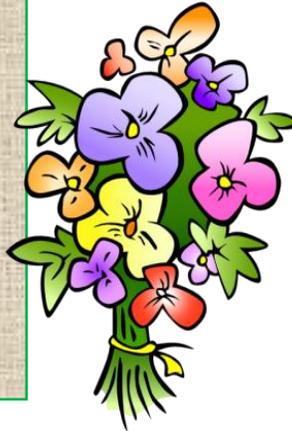
A little over a year ago, I remember preaching my first virtual sermon because all our churches had to be closed due to the pandemic. I began that sermon by quoting a friend's statement, "I don't really know how to be a pastor during a pandemic." None of us knew how to be pastors, church members, parents, friends or neighbors during a pandemic. We had never before experienced something so life altering and restricting. And yet, though with much difficulty, we made it through the year. Now, none of us know how to be individuals and a church as we emerge from a pandemic. We are once again in uncharted territory. But we have an opportunity to be something new, something even better, something eternal. I can't wait to see what God has planned.

*God's Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Saunnie*

MAY Birthdays

Karolyn Holley	May 3
Courtney Harbison	May 16
Pamela Graves	May 23
Bonnie Brown	May 24
Cristy Howlett	May 25
Patrick Howlett	May 29
Louis Wilson	May 30
Tyler Bagwell	May 31
Lisa Bailey	May 31

Happy Birthday



JUNE Birthdays

Jane Lewis	June 2
Grayson Pennington	June 3
Jason James	June 5
Evan Hecht	June 9
Ellen Hiatt	June 12
Aaron Dunn	June 13
Hope Lucart	June 13
Steve Park	June 13
Amanda Ward	June 19
Austin Bagwell	June 20
Scotty Buchanan	June 25
Bonita Bill	June 30
Elizabeth Williamson	June 30

Offerings for Ghent Area Ministry are accepted each Sunday. 100% of monies collected is donated.



Just look for the collection boxes in the sanctuary.



ONLINE TITHING



In order to make it more convenient for those who wish to continue to send in their tithes, we have set up a PayPal account for the church. Just login to PayPal and click on "send money" choose the option "send to friends abroad" (this option avoids the merchant fee of 3%) and select "send to a PayPal account, enter the amount and the church email address: epworth@epworthva.org.



JOIN US FOR DEVOTION, WORD & PRAYER

Morning Break with Pastor Saunnie

Sundays & Tuesdays Live @ 10 am

Special Sundays in May & June

- Mother's Day – May 9
- Pentecost Sunday – May 23
(Don't forget to wear red that day)
- Peace with Justice Sunday – May 30
- Father's Day – June 20



WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Family and friends of Ronald Bagwell, who died on March 13, 2021. May God comfort them in their loss.

Make someone's day special by participating in a monthly "Card Shower" for members who are either in Health Care facilities or Homebound. (our Missing Angels)

A – C send to:

Ms. Elinor Edwards
538 Washington Park, #B1
Norfolk, VA 23517

Jane Lewis
6311 Granby Street,
Apt. #221
Norfolk, VA 23505

D – G send to:

Ann Gatling
5417 Wesleyan Drive #204
Virginia Beach, VA 23455



R – Z send to:

Mary Banks
350 S. Ridgewood Ave., #208
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Marilyn Sarko
432 Bartell Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23452

H – L send to:

Beverly Smeltzer
310 24th St., #102
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Ms. Nora Roadcap
5598 Lawson Hall Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

M - Q send to:

Ms. Louise Gwaltney
c/o F.X. Shannon
10 Applewood Drive
Hopewell, N. J. 08525

THE NEED FOR A SAVIOR

Ashes to ashes-----dust to dust,
it's all the same.
We came in dust and we'll return in dust;
only God's Spirit gives us life.

Can't we see how vulnerable we are without Him?
As the Master who really has claims on our existence?
Or are we so full of ourselves as to ignore our Maker?

We,
Blinded by hardened hearts to the sensitive nature of a
conscience now misguided by deception;
Project pompous words like blasts of cold, meaningless air;
Display actions like performers in an imaginary play
full of mere fiction;
Get "caught" up in a whirlwind of misery from suffering
struggles that we fight against-----
-----clawing at the wrong enemy-----
-----exhaustingly and to no avail-----
for the real foe is invisible to the naked eye.

When we reach the point where we can't make it alone, we cry out!
And,
The utter necessity of God humbles us to the fact that we are nothing in
ourselves, and must exist in Him for sanity's sake.

- Jane Edwards





O.(utreach) N.(urture) Committee News

As the “new normal” continues to evolve, the O.N. Committee continues to evolve too. Although it’s been hard adjusting to Zoom meetings, virtual drives, etc., we can see that God continues to bless us in our efforts encouraging us to persevere.

Our current ongoing project, the Blessing Box continues to be a blessing. We’ve witnessed this blessing as the box empties it is filled again, proving that the homeless and those facing food insecurity are being blessed and that the participation by the congregation, the day school and the community is growing.

On another note, as this year’s Annual Conference will be held virtually, we will once again ask for the purchase of virtual UMCOR Hygiene Kits for \$12/per kit. We will be collecting donations for “Virtual Hygiene Kits” through June 4th.

Also, Sunday May 9th is the Festival of the Christian Home, Mother’s Day. We are hoping this will be a special worship service that day with something special for the ladies and also on June 20, Father’s Day, with something special for the men.

And finally, don’t forget the community rewards programs with **Kroger** and **AmazonSmile**, and our collection of used/empty ink cartridges, all of which provide funds toward our mission projects.

May God continue to bless our efforts in 2021,

*Donna Benken, 2021 Outreach Chair
Mary Baker, Jackie Fulcher, Mary Lee Howlett, Ann Long, Karen Ward,
Ann Gatling and Carolyn Rogers, Members Emeritus*



CLEANING · SCHOOL · HYGIENE

VIRTUAL

KIT COLLECTION
@ Annual Conference

*Deadline
June
4th*

**Purchase a Virtual Hygiene Kit for \$12/kit.
You may send your donation to the church office or
through PayPal by logging onto our website:
www.epworthva.org
click on the donate button on the home page**



ForKids



Back to School Supplies Drive

- Bookbags
- Scissors
- Tissues
- Pens & Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Crayons
- Loose Leaf Paper
- 1/3/5 Subject Notebooks
- Index Cards
- Combination Locks
- Scientific Calculators
- Hand Sanitizers
- 3-ring Binders
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- 3-Prong Folders

The O.N. Committee will collect School Supplies through August 8
Monetary Donations also accepted.
Order on AmazonSmile & choose ForKids, Inc.



amazonSmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop AmazonSmile, 5% of the purchase price will be donated to Epworth United Methodist Church. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply log onto <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0534400> to receive donations from eligible purchases.



Kroger Rewards Program

Shop at Kroger grocery store and show your Kroger Plus card to donate a portion of the sales price to Epworth mission projects.

To register your Kroger Plus card visit krogercommunityrewards.com and use code number NPO/Pin#EY815.



It is hard to believe that we are already into May of 2021. We are still in the midst of the chaos of COVID-19 and still wondering what the future may hold. But we don't have to

wonder about the future of Epworth Day School. I can say that because of His Word from Jeremiah 29:11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you hope and a future." A hope from the Lord is a promise, something that we look forward to, not just wishful thinking!

I believe the Lord is working His plans out already for the future of EDS. We have come from an enrollment of 8 children (when COVID-19 began), to 62 children presently enrolled, with more coming! We are making plans to rearrange the floor plans to enlarge classrooms, and adding more classrooms. We are looking at upgrading our playground and facilities. And we are filled with anticipation as we watch these plans take place.

Our God is good, and Our God is faithful. He continues to bless Epworth Day School as we minister to children and families and plant seeds that can be watered with our faith, our love, our discipleship, and His plans for each one of these children and families, to give them a hope and a future!

----Ellen Belfi, EDS Director

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www.facebook.com/epworthumc124